IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Genichi Imamura	Art Unit	: 2622
Serial No.	: 10/758,277	Examiner	: Brian P. Yenke
Filed	: January 16, 2004	Conf. No.	: 5149
Title	: VIDEO SIGNAL LEVEL MONITORING APPARATUS		

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REPLY TO ACTION OF JANUARY 17, 2007

Claims 1-7 are pending, with claim 1 being independent.

Claims 1-7 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Fig. 2 of applicant's own disclosure (Fig. 2) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,070 (Cugnini). Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection because neither Fig. 2 of applicant's own disclosure, Cugnini, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests displaying each of an amplitude value of a color component (C) and a luminance component (Y) in a one-dimensional direction such that one of the amplitude values is superposed on the other of the amplitude values and the amplitude value of the color component (C) is a peak-to-peak value, as recited in claim 1, and because one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Fig. 2 of applicant's own disclosure in the manner suggested in the Office Action.

Fig. 2 shows a display for controlling the level of the NTSC composite signal, which is a vector formed of a luminance component and a color component. See the specification at page 2, lines 4-17. However, as the Examiner realizes, Fig. 2 fails to describe or suggest a display of amplitude values of the color component and the luminance component in a one-dimensional direction. Moreover, Fig. 2 also fails to describe or suggest that one of the amplitude values is superposed on the other of the amplitude values or that the amplitude value of the color component is a peak-to-peak value, as also recited in claim 1.

Cugnini relates to a signal processor for a television receiver that includes a video signal processor 26 that generates color signals for application to a display screen 28 and receives a quality signal indicator (SQI) from a quality signal processor 30. See Cugnini at col. 3, line 61 to col. 4, line 27 and Fig. 1. As explained by Cugnini, a graphics generator 44 generates a SQI

signal graph for display. See Cugnini at col. 4, lines 28-64 and Figs. 4A and 4B. The signal graph includes a main rectangle that corresponds to one of the signal quality states and a triangular portion at the end of the main rectangle that corresponds to the quality of the signal above the last state. See Cugnini at col. 6, lines 1-30 and Figs. 4A and 4B.

However, Cugnini's display does not include amplitude values of color and luminance components and it does not include an amplitude value superposed on another amplitude value, as recited in claim 1. Rather, the signal graph, which displays values in one dimension, only displays the signal quality of the received digital broadcast signal for a digital receiver within the television receiver. See Cugnini at col. 2, lines 1-23 and Figs. 4A and 4B. Moreover, while applicant does not concede that the triangular portion is an amplitude value, the triangular portion in Cugnini's display is not superposed on the main rectangle. Rather, as discussed above, it is placed at the end of the main rectangle.

Thus, the proposed modification of Fig. 2 with the disclosure of Cugnini would still fail to describe or suggest displaying each of an amplitude value of a color component (C) and a luminance component (Y) in a one-dimensional direction such that one of the amplitude values is superposed on the other of the amplitude values and the amplitude value of the color component (C) is a peak-to-peak value, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Fig. 2 and Cugnini.

The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to modify Fig. 2 of applicant's disclosure with the bar graph shown in Cugnini to provide "the display in a single dimension (i.e. bar graph) based upon the type of display the user desires." First, as discussed above, even if applicant's disclosure were to be modified with the bar graph shown in Cugnini, such a modification would provide, at most, a bar graph of a single component (such as the Y amplitude) as shown in Fig. 2 since the bar graph shown in Cugnini merely displays the signal quality of the signal. The bar graph shown in Cugnini does not include multiple variables, as suggested by the Examiner at Page 3 of the Office Action. Moreover, even if one were to consider the triangular portion of Cugnini's display as somehow corresponding to a variable (which applicant does not concede), there is nothing to suggest that the triangular portion be superposed on the main rectangle. Second, the motivation to modify Fig. 2 does not appear to be found in the cited references, and the mere suggestion by the Examiner that a bar graph can be

used to display a single component is not enough motivation to modify the two-dimensional arrowhead display shown in Fig. 2 because the two-dimensional arrowhead display of Fig. 2 displays two components, namely the Y amplitude and the C amplitude while Cugnini displays one component.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is allowable over any proper combination of Fig. 2 and Cugnini. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable, and for containing allowable subject matter in their own right. For example, claim 4 recites that the display means displays the amplitude values in different colors. However, neither Fig. 2, Cugnini, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests such a display means. The Examiner states that the "use of different color for amplitude values is a mere design choice, since the use of similar colors or not is a visual tool preferenced by a user and thus provides no unexpected results regarding their use." Applicant disagrees. In this case, one way to enable the display of the amplitude values in a one-dimensional direction is to use different colors; thus such use would provide a benefit and would not be a mere design choice. As another example, claim 7 recites that the display means displays the waveform of the video signal. However, neither Fig. 2, Cugnini, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests such a display means.

In conclusion, applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06 1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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